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Message Text

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73
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02

OES-06 DODE-00 /041 W
---------- 080887
R 062015Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1147

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: GT, BAGB
SUBJ: U-2 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

FOR ARA/CEN AND INR/DDC

1. AMBASSADOR HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING LETTER DATED MARCH 20 FROM GENERAL RUBIO, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: "RESPECTFULLY I ADDRESS MY-SELF TO YOU TO ASK YOU TO USE YOUR GOOD OFFICES WITH THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES TO OBTAIN TWO ADDITIONAL U-2 FLIGHTS TO PHOTOGRAPH THE REST OF GUATEMALA, WHICH WILL BE OF GREAT IMPORTANT FOR THE FORESTRY INVENTORY OF THIS COUNTRY, THE USE OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS, ETC. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE 70 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY WHICH REMAINS (UNPHOTOGRAPHED BY THE U-2) COULD BE PHOTOGRAPHED BY THESE TWO ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS."

2. COMMENT: WE ARE UNABLE EVALUATE HERE WHAT BEST WAY IS OF RESPONDING

TO GENERAL RUBIO'S REQUEST. WE AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR GOG TO OBTAIN THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY AN INVENTORY OF ITS FORESTRY RESOURCES, ETC. THIS WOULD OF COURSE NOT BE DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE GOG'S RELIEF/

RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT IN THE WAKE OF THE EARTHQUAKE. HOWEVER, QUITE APART FROM POLICY CONSIDERATIONS OF USING U-2 FOR THIS TYPE OF MISSION, WE ARE GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND BY OUR IAGS REPRESENTATIVE THAT CLOUD COVER AT THIS TIME OF YEAR MAKES U-2 PHOTOGRAPHY DIFFICULT. MOREOVER, WE UNDERSTAND FROM IAGS REPRESENTATIVE
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THAT FORESTY MAPPING NORMALLY REQUIRES A SCALE OF 1 TO 20,000,

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WHICH IS OBTAINED BY REGULAR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY BY AIRCRAFT WHOSE MAXIMUM ALTITUDE IS 20,000 FEET. THE INSTITUTO DE GEOGRAFICO NACIONAL (IGN) HAS ONLY ONE SMALL AIRCRAFT OF THIS TYPE AND IT IS FULLY COMMITTED. HOWEVER, THIS TYPE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE COULD PRESUMABLY BE OBTAINED THROUGH CONTRACT WITH AMERICAN FIRM WITH IGN ACTING AS CONTRACTOR AND TECHNICAL INSPECTOR. WE ARE UNABLE EVALUATE REMAINING ALTERNATIVE OF SATELLITE PHOTOGRAPHY.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON GUIDANCE FROM POLICY AND TECHNICAL STANDPOINT, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH INR/DDC.
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